

## PHYSICAL RESTRAINT OF STUDENTS

All schools and programs within the Milton Public Schools are committed to maintaining an orderly, safe environment conducive to learning for all students and staff. It is the policy of Milton Public Schools that physical restraint shall be used only in emergency situations as a last resort and with extreme caution after other lawful and less intrusive alternatives have failed or been deemed inappropriate in accordance with 603 CMR 46.00 et seq.

The use of mechanical restraint, medical restraint, prone restraint unless permitted pursuant to 603 CMR 46.03(1)(b), the use of restraint inconsistent with 603 CMR 46.03, and seclusion is prohibited. The use of “time out” procedures during which a staff member remains accessible to the student shall not be considered “seclusion restraint.”

Notwithstanding the above, in the event of an emergency in which physical restraint is deemed the only appropriate option to prevent injury to students and/or staff, nothing shall preclude a teacher of District employee from using reasonable force to protect students, other persons or themselves from assault or imminent, serious, physical harm.

The Superintendent will develop procedures identifying:

- Appropriate responses to student behavior that may require immediate intervention;
- Methods of preventing student violence, self-injurious behavior, and suicide including crisis planning and de-escalation of potentially dangerous behaviors among groups of students or individuals;
- Descriptions and explanations of alternatives to physical restraint as well as the school’s method of physical restraint for use in emergency situations;
- Descriptions of the school’s training and procedures to comply with reporting requirements including, but not limited to making reasonable efforts to orally notify a parent of the use of restraint within 24 hours of its imposition;
- Procedures for receiving and investigating complaints;
- Procedures for conducting periodic review of data and documentation on the use of physical restraints;
- Methods for engaging parents in discussions about restraint prevention and use of restraint solely as an emergency procedure;
- A process for obtaining Principal approval for a time out exceeding 30 minutes.

Each building Principal will identify staff members to serve as a school-wide resource to assist in ensuring proper administration of physical restraint. These staff members will participate in an in-depth training program in the use of physical restraint.

In addition, each staff member will be trained regarding the school’s restraint prevention and behavior support policy and accompanying procedures. The Principal will arrange training to occur in the first month of each school year, or for staff hired after the beginning of the school year, within a month of their employment.

Physical restraint is prohibited as a means of discipline or punishment, or as a response to destruction of property, disruption of school order, a student's refusal to comply with a school rule or staff directive, or verbal threats that do not constitute a threat of assault or imminent, serious physical harm to the student or others.

Physical restraint is prohibited when it is medically contraindicated for reasons including, but not limited to, asthma, seizures, a cardiac condition, obesity, bronchitis, communication-related disabilities, or risk of vomiting.

No written individual behavior plan or individual education program (IEP) may include use of physical restraint as a standard response to any behavior.

This policy and its accompanying procedures shall be reviewed and disseminated to staff annually and made available to parents of enrolled students. The Superintendent shall provide a copy of the Physical Restraint regulations to each Principal, who shall sign a form acknowledging receipt thereof.

LEGAL REFERENCE: M.G.L. 71:37G

CROSS REFERENCE: C-10 Restraint of Students in the Milton Public Schools

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